

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: DRC MEETING: DURATION OF HOSTILITIES

REF: A. USNATO 5714; B. USNATO 5768

1. MISSION IS BEST PLACED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN WRITTEN AND ORAL STATEMENT IN DEALING WITH DURATION OF HOSTILITIES IN DRC DISCUSSION OF OCTOBER 22. HOWEVER, IF WRITTEN APPROACH IS USED WE SUGGEST MODIFICATION OF PARAS 2 AND 3 OF TEXT IN REF B AS FOLLOWS:

-- "2. DETERRENCE WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THE WARSAW PACT REGARDED NATO AS BEING ABLE TO OUTLAST IT
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IN TERMS OF COMBAT CONSUMABLES READILY AVAILABLE FOR

PLAUSIBLE CONVENTIONAL WAR SCENARIOS. THEREFORE, SUFFICIENT WAR RESERVE STOCKS SHOULD BE ON HAND TO SUPPORT A STRONG, HOLDING CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE UNTIL THE INITIAL STOCKS OF THE WARSAW PACT ARE EXHAUSTED.

-- 3. NATO SHOULD NOT BASE PEACETIME LOGISTICS PLANS ON AN ASSUMPTION THAT ESCALATION TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE AFTER A FEW DAYS OF CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS. ALTHOUGH, IN FACT, ANY SCENARIO COULD ESCALATE TO THE NUCLEAR DIMENSION AT ANY TIME, WITH OR WITHOUT A NEED FOR CONTINUED CAPABILITY TO CONDUCT CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS, NATO'S CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY

AND RELATED LOGISTICS PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO ASSURE THAT THERE NEED NOT BE AN EARLY RECOURSE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN DIRECT DEFENSE ON ACCOUNT OF LOGISTIC WEAKNESS."

2. IF IS DRAFT (DRC/WP(74)7) IS DISCUSSED, YOU SHOULD EXPRESS STRONG DISAGREEMENT WITH SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 21 AND EXPRESS A CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR US DRAFT AS IT COVERS SAME TOPIC. YOU SHOULD IN PARTICULAR URGE THAT SPECIFICATION OF LENGTH OF WAR BE AVOIDED SINCE IT IS BASICALLY UNPREDICTABLE. YOU SHOULD CLEARLY MAKE POINT THAT US SECTION ON "OUTLASTING THE PACT" IS A MATTER OF SIMPLE LOGISTIC INSURANCE, AND IS NOT A STRATEGIC CONCEPT.

3. OUR OBJECTIVE AT THIS JUNCTURE IS STILL TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN TO DRAFT AGREED TEXTS.

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